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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DATE 3/20/81 EC

FROM : AMLEGATION, HELSINKI

822 DESP. NO.

April 8, 1952 DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

AIR POUCH PRIORITY

APR 8 1952

REF :

SUBJECT: Prime Minister Kekkonen's Statement at Celebration of Fourth Anniversary of Finland-Soviet Mutual Aid Pact

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ACTION: EUR

INFO: DCR OLI E IFI IBS IPS

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On April 6, 1952 there was held in the University Auditorium a celebration of the Fourth Anniversary of the signing of the Finnish-Soviet treaty of Friendship, Collaboration, and Reciprocal Assistance, which took place in Moscow on April 6, 1948. There were present at this ceremony President PAASIKIVI, Foreign Minister TUOMIOJA, Communications Minister HUUNONEN, Uusimaa Provincial Governor MELTTI (a familiar fellow-traveller) Soviet Minister LEBEDEV, Hungarian Minister DOMOTOR, the Chinese Communist Charge d'Affaires, representatives of the Polish and Rumanian Legations, and members of a Soviet cultural delegation now in Finland under the leadership of the author SOFRONOV.

After a musical introduction involving orchestral, instrumental, and vocal pieces of Finnish and Soviet origin, Prime Minister KEKKONEN delivered a speech, a copy of which in English translation is submitted herewith. The speech consists of rather fulsome praise of the so-called Friendship and Mutual Aid Pact, for the attitude of the Soviet delegation at the time it was negotiated, and for Stalin. A reference to the graciousness of the Soviet Union in delivering to Finland "sizable quantities of certain raw materials and semi-manufactured articles necessary for our metal industries, items which are now difficult to secure in world markets and without which our metal industries would have been subjected to overwhelming difficulties," is gratuitous propaganda for the Moscow Economic Conference now underway, since in fact out of some 70,000 tons of ferrous metal products the Soviet Union has made available to the Finns for the present calender year, only some 20,000 tons of steel billets -- a commodity relatively easy to come by -- are for free Finnish use, while the remaining 50,000 tons are especially ear-marked for manufacture into products which Finland is to deliver to the Soviet Union either as reparations under the terms of the peace treaty, or else under the terms of the trade agreement. [redacted]

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Certain Soviet artists who were to have appeared at this ceremony failed to reach Helsinki by reason of weather conditions unsuitable for flying. On the same day the Prime Minister and Mrs. Kekkonen held a reception for some 400 persons in connection with the anniversary of the Pact. The principal guests were largely the same as those who had been present in the University auditorium.

For the Minister:

H. Bartlett Wells

H. Bartlett Wells
First Secretary of Legation

Enclosure: as

Translation, "Hufvudstadsbladet,"
April 7, 1952.

CC: EUR/BNA; AmEmbassy Moscow,
London.

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UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

TRANSLATION

("Hufvudstadsbladet," April 7, 1952)

(Prime Minister Kekkonen's Statement)

When the treaty of Friendship, Collaboration, and Reciprocal Aid between Finland and the Soviet Union was signed in Moscow four years ago, the political horizon was marred with ominous clouds. In a way one must regard the treaty against this background. War is a welcome guest to no one, and the obvious political goal for a peace-loving state is to throw up its defenses against war and the threat of war. A small country like Finland has very limited practical means of realizing such an aspiration. The undertakings calling for military collaboration to ward off an attack or a threat of an attack, which form part of the treaty of Friendship and Aid between Finland and the Soviet Union, constitute from Finland's point of view a sort of guarantee against war and the threat of war. Since the military collaboration to which Finland and the Soviet Union have pledged themselves, in the event that Finland and the Soviet Union through Finnish territory should become the object of armed attack, is territorially limited, it is calculated in an altogether exceptional measure to enhance the pact's significance toward keeping the peace in the portion of Northern Europe where Finland is located.

No sooner was the pact concluded than it was obvious it was to be of epoch-making significance in the relationships between Finland and the Soviet Union. But when one considers the developments in the world since the pact was concluded, one is fully justified in saying that the Friendship and Aid Pact has been of greater significance in the stabilization of our country's position than one could at that time imagine. It has been of particular importance for us that during a period when developments in the world have taken many surprising turns, there has existed between Finland and the Soviet Union a treaty whose provisions were well-known to everyone. Since in addition all parties have been able to convince themselves of the unshakable purpose of both partners to uphold the treaty's provisions, the treaty has had a perhaps directly decisive share in bringing it about that the relationship between Finland and the Soviet Union have not been the object of idle speculation when decisions of political import have been arrived at in the world.

On this birthday of the Friendship and Aid Pact it is very pleasant to recall that the negotiations regarding the pact and its contents were carried on in a friendly spirit of reciprocal trust. At the very beginning of the negotiations it became clear that the representatives of the Soviet Union would show a realistic and

positive attitude toward the views and proposals which might be advanced on the part of the Finnish representatives. Thus the Finnish delegation, for its part, introduced a proposal as a basis for the negotiation of the treaty. The treaty as it was eventually adopted is founded in all essential respects upon this draft. The attitude of the Soviet Union, as manifested during the very drafting of the treaty, afforded positive grounds to assume that the treaty might be carried out with good understanding between the partners. The past four years have confirmed the correctness of these hopes. During the time the treaty has been in effect, and due in part thereto, relations between Finland and the Soviet Union have developed in a positive sense both in political and economic respects on the one hand, and in the cultural field on the other hand. The will to cooperation which finds its expression in the treaty has, in the intercourse between our countries, led to results over which we may frankly rejoice.

We may justifiably mention with particular emphasis our increasingly lively cultural relations. Many visits of scientists and artists in every artistic field and on both sides may be referred to. This cultural exchange has been calculated to augment the opportunities for reciprocal understanding among our peoples. Cultural tendencies in Finland and in the Soviet Union diverge in many respects. Our cultural life has its particular peculiarities, as does that of the Soviet Union. But this fact by no means constitutes any obstacle to cultural reciprocity; on the contrary, it is calculated to enrich it and to make it more fruitful. We should do well to recall a remarkable passage bearing on this point which occurred in the great speech delivered by Generalissimo Stalin at the dinner given on April 7, 1948 on the occasion of the conclusion of the Friendship and Aid Pact. Generalissimo Stalin said in part: "Every nation -- small or great -- has its peculiarities, its unique quality which characterizes it alone and which is not found in any other nation. These peculiarities constitute the contribution of nations to the treasure of the world's cultures, which are thereby enriched and embellished."

During the years that the Friendship and Aid Pact has been in effect there has also occurred a decisive development in a positive sense in connection with our commercial relationships with the Soviet Union. In June 1950 there was concluded a five year agreement on the exchange of commodities, which has created a solid ground for trade between Finlandand the Soviet Union and a firm long-range program.

1951 was the first year during which the five year agreement was applied. Experience during that period has shown that the agreement has justified the hopes which had been founded upon it.

As regards deliveries of commodities during the present year, we may remark with satisfaction that within their framework Finland

will further receive considerably more of certain necessities than the five year agreement provides. This applies above all to grains, concentrated fodder, and petroleum products. Furthermore the Soviet Union has consented to deliver to Finland sizable quantities of certain raw materials and semi-manufactured articles necessary for our metal industries, items which are now difficult to secure in world markets and without which our metal industries would have been subjected to overwhelming difficulties. The Soviet Union's Envoy in Helsinki, Minister LEBEDEV, merits hearty thanks for his kind assistance.

Our trade with the Soviet Union has already to date proved to be of the very greatest significance for our country with respect both to foreign exchange, supply, and employment considerations. Its significance from the point of view of the employment situation can be expected to increase still further during coming years. The significance of the five year plan's long-range program, and the annually concluded import and export agreements, with regard to the stabilization of our economic life is not to be disdained either. On this account it would also be regarded as natural that an effort be made in the future still further to extend and develop this trade exchange so advantageous to both parties. We hope that this effort may be facilitated through the deliberations which will be held at the great economic conference in Moscow, now in session and to which Finland has sent an authoritative delegation.

I can give assurance on behalf of the Finnish people that we wish that trust and friendship shall characterize the development of relations between the Soviet Union and our country, and that we set high value upon this being the case. The development of relations between our two countries has given the world an example of how an honest seeking for reciprocal understanding between two countries can bear rich fruit.